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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	OCT-00	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-10	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSC-01	NSAE-00	HA-06	L-03
	PM-09	PA-01	SSM-03	SMS-01	SAL-01	RP-10	SSN-02
	ICAE-00	SP-02	SR-04	SPRS-02	/111 W		
				307452	251248Z	/46	

P 251205Z MAR 82  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4441  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: SUPP. HUM. AF. EG  
SUBJECT: ANOTHER AFGHANISTAN DAY\* IN EGYPT

REF: STATE 66597 NR

1. ON MARCH 21-22 EGYPT CELEBRATED "AFGHANISTAN DAY" FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE MONTHS. (AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (81 CAIRO 30476), THE GOE WENT ALL OUT LAST DECEMBER 27 TO COMMEMORATE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION -- PRIMARILY BY SPONSORING RALLIES, SPEECHES AND OTHER PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE AND INSISTENCE ON SOVIET WITHDRAWAL.) CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS (CAIRO 2625), THE GOE MOUNTED ANOTHER MAJOR EFFORT THIS TIME AROUND. THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF ISLAMIC AND ARAB PEOPLES (LIAP) COMMENDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE CONGRESS FOR THEIR CONCERN FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AND UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTANCE AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN BY FREE PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN ADDITION, THE GRAND SHAYKH OF AL-AZHAR, THE SHURA COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY VOICED VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN, AND THE EGYPTIAN MEDIA DEVOTED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THESE AND SIMILAR OBSERVANCES WORLDWIDE (SEE CAIRO 6823.

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6860, 6982 AND 7000 FOR DETAILS). EGYPTIAN TELEVISION USED 13 MINUTES OF THE ICA VTR AFGHANISTAN 1982 IN AN HOUR-LONG SPECIAL ON MARCH 21, AND THE ENTIRE VTR WAS SHOWN THAT SAME EVENING AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EGYPTIAN-AFGHANISTAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (CAIRO 6997).

2. ON MARCH 22, POLOFF REPRESENTED THE AMBASSADOR AT A TWO AND A HALF-HOUR "AFGHANISTAN DAY" CELEBRATION SPONSORED BY THE MUSLIM YOUTH LEAGUE (MYL) IN CAIRO. GATHERING WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 60 RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FIGURES AND WAS MARKED BY SPEECHES, POETRY AND KORANIC READINGS. VIRTUALLY ALL SPEAKERS REPEATEDLY PRAISED THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. CONGRESS, AS WELL AS EC-MEMBER STATES, FOR THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. LIAP SECGEN SAYYID NOWFAL CALLED FOR UNITY AMONG AFGHAN REBEL FACTIONS; THE LIAP ASSISTANT SECGEN (AN AFGHAN) CONDEMNED THE FAILURE OF ARAB MUSLIMS TO ASSIST THEIR OPPRESSED AFGHAN BRETHREN; A MYL CENTRAL COMMITTEEMAN CALLED ON EGYPTIANS TO DONATE MONEY TO THE AFGHAN CAUSE AND ON PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS IN PAKISTAN (THIS SPEAKER BECAME SO IMPASSIONED THAT HE FORGOT ONE OF HIS MAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTS AND ENDED UP RECITING KORANIC VERSES. HE REMEMBERED THE POINT FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER AND INTERRUPTED ANOTHER SPEAKER TO DELIVER IT.); AND THE MYL CHAIRMAN SAID "THE PROPHET TOLD US THAT 'HE WHO DOES NOT THANK DOERS OF GOOD DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO THANK GOD'. . . THEREFORE WE SHOULD THANK THE UNITED STATES". HE ALSO URGED THOSE WHO OBSERVE SPECIAL "DAYS" ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND POLAND TO DO THE SAME FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

3. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, A RATHER INTERESTING PERFORMANCE ON THE PART OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ALIKE, WHO HAD GONE THROUGH MANY OF THE SAME GYRATIONS ONLY A FEW MONTHS BEFORE. THE GOE WAS CLEARLY DETERMINED NOT TO TAKE A BACK SEAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FREE WORLD'S OBSERVANCE OF "INTERNATIONAL AFGHANISTAN DAY". END COMMENT.

DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING APRIL 30, 1982. AHERTON

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